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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/459,240

Applicant(s)

BACHA ET AL.

Examiner

Jung W Kim

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 14 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17, 22 and 23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 December 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The terminal disclaimer received March 14, 2005 is sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejections to claims 17, 22 and 23.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 17, 22 and 23 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 17, 22 and 23 define a computer program product and a process for maintaining a secure electronic data search system for a third party data repository which contains document data files encrypted to make them secure from the administrator of the repository, such a system having a manifest listing access controls for each electronic data file stored in the data repository and a record maintained by a documents originator listing document access privileges for each computer with access to the electronic data stored in the repository which record is maintained secure from the administrator of the repository. The closest prior art, Frisch and Garfinkel, teach a similar product and process; however, neither Frisch nor Garfinkel teach nor disclosed the following in combination:
 - a. updating the manifest for the electronic data file document stored in the repository;
 - b. identifying all computers with access to the electronic data file document and for changing such access privilege records in an update for communicating the change in access to all affected computers;

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- c. encrypting in a vault of the document originator a document of the originator, prior to forwarding it on to a vault of the repository;
- d. signing the encrypted document in the vault of the repository before storing the document in the electronic repository and returning to the originator's vault proof of deposition of the encrypted document;
- e. sending from the vault of a requesting user to the repository's vault a request to use the requested document;
- f. retrieving from the repository's vault a copy of the document in encrypted form and forwarding it along with the requester's identity, to the originator's vault;
- g. verifying in the originator's vault that the requester is authorized to view the document from the access control list in the originator's vault identifying access privileges for the document;
- h. decrypting the document in the originator's vault when the requester has access and forwarding the decrypted document directly to the requester's vault; and
- i. having the requester's vault provide proof of receipt of the decrypted document.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung W Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

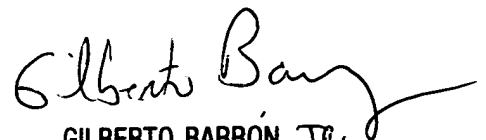
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jung W Kim
Examiner
Art Unit 2132

Jk
April 19, 2005



GILBERTO BARRÓN JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100